

# Contributing to the

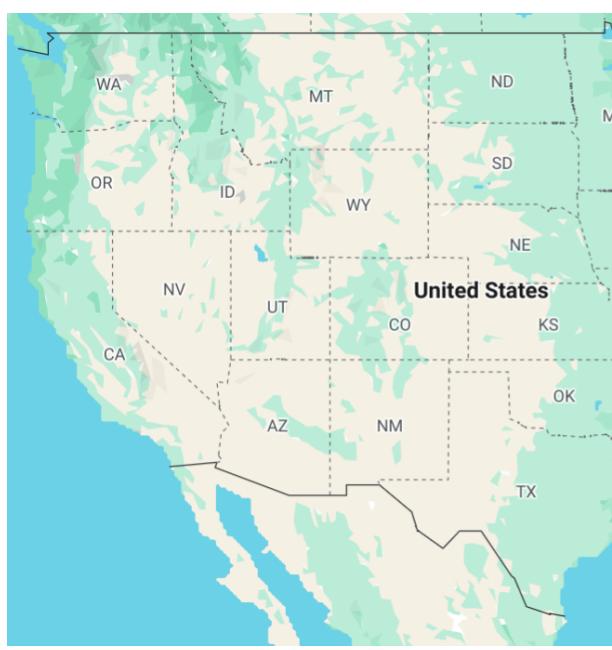
by Tim S

Slides and notes: [github.com/tischa](https://github.com/tischa)

## **Speaker notes**

Hamjambo marafiki, jina langu ni Tim Schilling. Mimi ni mhandisi wa programu katika Asp

# I am from Water



23,000 people and

Arusha: 617,000 people

### **Speaker notes**

As you may have noticed from my accent, I'm not from around here. I'm from the US. I've been to a lot of different towns and cities. I grew up in a small town with about 20,000 people, but then I find people who grew up in towns of over 100,000 people.

# **Watertown is**

- **First Kindergarten in the US**
- **The Octagon House???**

## **Speaker notes**

My town has two claims to fame. One, is that we were the first town in America to have a school with an educational approach focused on singing, drawing and playing. Which is also known as the Octagon house. Which is famous because it has 8 sides.

Yeah, I don't get it either.

My childhood in Watertown was a somewhat insulated experience. In fact I never tried cooking until I was 18.

# **Watertown is**



**Octagon House, 200**

**Bring on t**



**Peas and carrots dish**

## **Speaker notes**

And while it wasn't a curry, curry, my favorite meal of the trip did have both curry spice and Side note, Kitamu Coffee has some fantastic food! I can definitely recommend it.

Which brings me to Django. Because without the django community, I may have never co

# Community Involvement

## Current

- Django 6.x Steering Council
- Djangonaut Space  admin
- Django Commons admin
- django-debug-toolbar
- django-simple-history
- django-auth-adfs

## **Speaker notes**

Before we dive into the technical stuff, and in case people couldn't understand my Swahili community since 2014, starting with the django debug toolbar. I'm on the Django 6.x Steering help maintain a few libraries. I've also been a navigator for a Djangonaut Space team and DjangoCon US, was secretary of DEFNA, helped answering questions on the forum and co-

I've always enjoyed helping people, but when I met the Django community in person in Sa-

I hope with the rest of our time I can convince you that investing some of your time, energ-

I'm going to start by sharing a bit about the community orgs I'm a part of. Steering Council from different angles. Then we're going to shift gears and I'll share where you can get involved participate in the community.

Real quick, who doesn't contribute to the Django community right now, but wants to? Cool, my job.

**Raise your hand if you  
Steering**

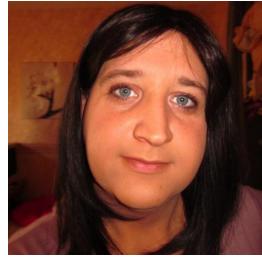
## **Speaker notes**

Let's start with Steering Council. First, please raise your hand if you have heard of the Ste

# **Steering**



**Carlton  
Gibson**



**Emma  
Delescolle**



**François  
Wilhelmy**

## **Speaker notes**

The Steering Council is responsible for the technical aspect of the Django framework. We exist to be the decision maker in cases where the community is unable to come to a cons

It's a group of five individuals that are elected every two years by the Django Software Foundation to oversee the development of the next major version of the Django. The 6.x Steering Council consists of Carlton Gibson, Emma Deleset, and others.

This iteration of the Steering Council is a bit different than those in the past. We've been f

# **Steering Co**

- **Improve third-party story**
- **Improve contributor experie**

## **Speaker notes**

The main areas of our focus for our first year has been improving the third-party story of [REDACTED]

# Steering Co

- Improve third-party story
  - Make it easier to find packages
  - Steering Council ecosystem
  - [djangoproject.com/community](https://djangoproject.com/community)
- Improve contributor experience

## **Speaker notes**

We as a group believe that the third-party ecosystem is a powerful component of Django. application so they can be more productive. It also acts as an outlet for the pressure to add sense to allow people to choose which features. A vibrant third party ecosystem supports based on their needs.

We on the Steering Council want to highlight the third-party ecosystem. We want to make added our curated list of packages, resources and orgs to a page on the [djangoproject.com](http://djangoproject.com) highlight the ecosystem.

# Steering Co

- Improve third-party story
- Improve contributor experience
  - New features repo
  - [github.com/django/new-feature](https://github.com/django/new-feature)
  - Add your own ideas!
  - Share feedback on other ideas

## **Speaker notes**

Another thing we've been working on is improving the contributor experience. Specifically suggest new features at the GitHub repo, [github.com/django/new-features](https://github.com/django/new-features). We're hoping the various stages an idea will go through and what the gates are for it to move to the next stage.

One thing you as community members can do today is to visit that repository and share your ideas. If you see something you like, please do, please open an issue.

Another thing you can do today is provide feedback on ideas. We have implemented a system where you can upvote ideas without needing to comment. Letting folks know which ideas excite you or which you're not a fan of is another way to help shape the direction of things that the community desires.

# Have que

- Ask me in person!
- DSF Office Hours - Wed @ 6pm
- [djangoproject.com/office-hours](http://djangoproject.com/office-hours)
- Contact me directly: better-schilling@gmail.com
- Watch repo [github.com/django-project/office-hours](https://github.com/django-project/office-hours)

## **Speaker notes**

If you have questions on any of this, which I hope you do, feel free to stop me in the hallway or board holds, so if you think of something later, you can likely find me there. You're all also welcome to contribute by watching to the steering council repo on github.

**Raise your hand if you've ever used  
Django's admin interface**

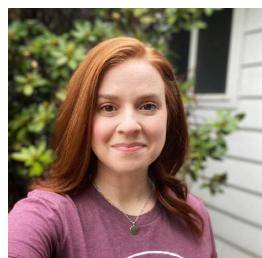
## **Speaker notes**

Let's move onto Django Commons. How many folks have heard of Django Commons?

# Django Comm



**Daniel  
Moran**



**Lacey  
Henschel**



**Ryan  
Cherniak**

### **Speaker notes**

If you haven't heard of this organization, it's a community effort to improve the maintenance of the trail system. It is currently managed by, Daniel Moran, Lacey Henschel, Ryan Cheley, myself and Storm Henschel.

# Django C

- [django-commons.org](http://django-commons.org)
- Supports 12 packages today
- Improve the Python package
- Community home for comm
- Automate as much as possi

## **Speaker notes**

Remember how I was talking about how important the third-party package ecosystem is to the Django ecosystem. So whereas the Steering Council is focused on strategy for the Django Community, we're focused on making package maintenance better.

How does this happen? We provide a home for community-maintained packages, making it easier to manage permissions for each package. And we seek to automate the logistical actions as much as possible. Akintola is working on automating releases to Test PyPI making the release process is testable and repeatable. I'm looking forward to that.

# Django Com

- Project introduction videos
  - Provide architecture overview
  - Humanizes maintainers
  - [django-commons/django-commons](#)
- Help find new contributors

## **Speaker notes**

We're currently working on helping maintainers record videos introducing their packages, username. The idea here is to make the package more accessible to new users and content about this and I hope this becomes a pattern for the community.

# Django Com

- Project introduction videos
- Help find new contributors
  - Meet and greets?
  - Have an idea, share it with
  - [github.com/orgs/django-community](https://github.com/orgs/django-community)

## **Speaker notes**

We're also looking for other ways to help maintainers find new contributors. There have been many discussions around this topic. If any of you have ideas or thoughts, please come join us in those discussions!

There are other conversations going on about various open source topics too. For example,

# Get involved with Django Commons

- Participate in discussions:  
[github.com/orgs/django-commons/discussions](https://github.com/orgs/django-commons/discussions)
- Contribute to the packages:  
[django-commons.org/#pull-requests](https://django-commons.org/#pull-requests)
- Contribute to Django Commons:  
[github.com/django-commons/django-commons](https://github.com/django-commons/django-commons)

## **Speaker notes**

Another place for you to get involved today is to contribute to the packages themselves. Even if you don't have time to contribute code, there are many issues in the GitHub repository that need solving. Lastly, there is a growing collection of Django Commons issues for the organization to work on.

# Djangonauts



## **Speaker notes**

The last organization I'd like to share about is Djangonaut Space. Please raise your hand if people plan on applying for the next session? Excellent, I look forward to reviewing your applications.

# Djangonau

- 8-week mentorship program
- The next session is September 11-15!
- We always need Navigators!
- Find more info at [djangonau.com](http://djangonau.com)

## **Speaker notes**

It's a community run organization created in 2023 by Dawn Wages, Rachell Calhoun, Sam Django.

# Djangonaut

- 8-week mentorship program
  - Navigator == Technical mentor
  - Captain == Community mentor
  - Djangonaut == Mentee
  - Star == Stellar contributor
- The next session is September 29th, 2023
- We always need Navigators!
- Find more info at [djangonaut.space](https://djangonaut.space)

## **Speaker notes**

The organization centers around a 8 week mentorship program. Each session has about one community mentor who mentor three djangonauts, the mentees who work on a specific project. Once the mentees complete their mission, these stars have stick around to become future leaders. We've had a few of them become our navigators.

That's pretty special for me. The admin team wants to see Djangonaut Space get to a flywheel point where all these people go through the program and then come back to help the next groups is important.

# Djangonau

- 8-week mentorship program for contrib...
- **The next session is September!**
  - Applications open: September 1st
  - Applications close: September 15th
- We always need Navigators!
- Find more info at [djangonau](http://djangonau.com)

## **Speaker notes**

On our current todo list is preparing for the next session, making session organizing easier.

Where we most need help is on the navigator sides of things. Sessions are always limited package and would like to help mentor others, please let us know! If you're interested in becoming a mentor, visit our website, [djangonaut.space](http://djangonaut.space) to find all the details. We have a blog post that outlines what it takes to become a mentor, definitely read that.

# **Opportunities to contribute**

- 1. Contribute code to Django**
- 2. Triage new tickets**
- 3. Review Pull Requests (PRs)**
- 4. Help translate Django**
- 5. Discuss new feature ideas**

## **Speaker notes**

Alright, it's now time for us to shift gears. Up to this point, I've talked about three specific areas where you can help today.

I'd like to talk to you about the other opportunities to get involved and there are lots. I hope you'll consider some of them.

Let's start with the obvious ones.

# Opportunities to contribute

## 1. Contribute code to Django



"Your first Django Contribution" by [Sarah E. Davis](#)

**Remember:** patience and perseverance

2. Triage new tickets

3. Review Pull Requests (PRs)

4. Help translate Django

5. Discuss new feature ideas



## **Speaker notes**

1. You can contribute to the Django code base. Sarah Boyce has an amazing talk on cont

Keep in mind, contributing to Django core is challenging. It can take months before your contribution is greatly appreciated.

# Opportunities to contribute

1. Contribute code to Django
2. Triage new tickets

- [code.djangoproject.com/](https://code.djangoproject.com/)
- Try to reproduce new bug reports

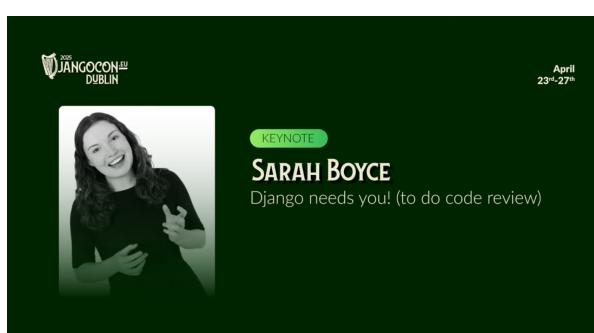
3. Review Pull Requests (PRs)
4. Help translate Django
5. Discuss new feature ideas

## **Speaker notes**

2. You can triage tickets by checking if bug reports are valid. This is where people try to re-

# Opportunities to contribute

1. Contribute code to Django
2. Triage new tickets
- 3. Review Pull Requests (PRs)**



"**Django needs you! (to do code review)**

Queue: [dashboard.djangoproject.com/contributor-queue](https://dashboard.djangoproject.com/contributor-queue)

4. Help translate Django
5. Discuss new feature ideas

→ [www.better-django.com](http://www.better-django.com) → [www.better-django.com](http://www.better-django.com)



## **Speaker notes**

3. You can review Pull Requests or PRs. The Fellows have said that this is an area that a needs you! (to do code review)".

# Opportunities to contribute

1. Contribute code to Django
2. Triage new tickets
3. Review Pull Requests (PRs)

## 4. Help translate Django

- [docs.djangoproject.com/en/4.1/internals/contributing/localizing/](https://docs.djangoproject.com/en/4.1/internals/contributing/localizing/)
- Search for "Localizing Django"

5. Discuss new feature ideas

## **Speaker notes**

4. Contribute to the translations. There's a documentation page that outlines the steps to the docs, you can find it easier.

# Opportunities to contribute

1. Contribute code to Django
  2. Triage new tickets
  3. Review Pull Requests (PRs)
  4. Help translate Django
- 5. Discuss new feature ideas**

- [github.com/django/new-features](https://github.com.djangoproject/new-features)
- Please share your opinions

## **Speaker notes**

5. You can participate in the new features discussions I mentioned earlier. Reviewing the

# Opportunities to Contribute to the community

- [github.com/django/djangopackages](https://github.com/django/djangopackages)
  - [github.com/django/code.djangoproject](https://github.com/django/code.djangoproject)
  - [github.com/django/djangosnippets](https://github.com/django/djangosnippets)
  - [github.com/djangopackages/djangopackages](https://github.com/djangopackages/djangopackages)
  - [github.com/DjangoGirls/djangogirls](https://github.com/DjangoGirls/djangogirls)
  - [github.com/classy-python/classy-class-based-views](https://github.com/classy-python/classy-class-based-views)
- ## (Classy Class-Based Views)



## **Speaker notes**

Did you know that the djangoproject website, Django's ticketing system and the djangopasta community? They all could use some extra hands. These projects are a little easier to contribute to because the code review cycles are shorter meaning you can see your changes in the wild much quicker. Seems like a win-win!

# Opportunities to contribute

- Contribute to other Python applications
- [djangopackages.org](http://djangopackages.org)
- Look for packages that interest you
- Consider packages you use

## **Speaker notes**

Expanding our horizon a bit further, there are hundreds of Django and Python packages available. One way to find them is to use [djangopackages.org](http://djangopackages.org). From there you can select which projects may of interest you.

# **Opportunities to**

- **Create your own!**
- **Look for a need that's not being met.**

## **Speaker notes**

You could also create your own third-party package. Perhaps you have your own idea on want to add a third-party panel to the django debug toolbar. If you see a need that's not b

# Opportunities

- Run for the Board and Steering Committee
- Volunteer for a Working Group
- Be a conference organizer
- Volunteer with DjangoGirls+ and local meetups

## **Speaker notes**

The next group is around community organizing. You could help define Django's strategy. Council is responsible for the technical aspect of Django. The board guides the direction of the project. The board has elections every year and anyone can run. Though I would say most people who run for the board

# Opportunities

- Run for the Board and Steering Council
- **Volunteer for a Working Group**
  - Small groups with a specific focus
  - [github.com.djangoproject/dsf-wg](https://github.com.djangoproject/dsf-wg)
  - See the Issues for working group
- Be a conference organizer
- Volunteer with DjangoGirls+ and local meetups

## **Speaker notes**

If you're more of a tactical, mission focused volunteer or just want to get your foot in the door, there are many ways to contribute. The board has delegated some responsibility to. For example, the website working group is responsible for maintaining the website. Other volunteers are: the accessibility team, code of conduct, fundraising, website, social media, and more. You can find the working group definitions on the dsf-working-groups repo on github.

There are also others in the works, package maintainers, google summer of code and diversity. You can contribute to the direction significantly by getting involved now. These can be found in the issues on the dsf-working-groups repo on github.

# Opportunities

- Run for the Board and Steering Council
- Volunteer for a Working Group
- Be a conference organizer
  - Conferences are vital to the Django community
  - Send an email that you're interested in organizing a conference to [hello@djangocon.africa](mailto:hello@djangocon.africa), 2 weeks before the deadline
  - [hello@djangocon.us](mailto:hello@djangocon.us)
- Volunteer with DjangoGirls+ and local meetups

## **Speaker notes**

You can also help organize Django conferences and events.

A big shoutout to the DjangoCon Africa organizing team for this year's conference! Well done!

Conferences are one of the most important aspects of our community. They help the community grow and thrive. If you want to have a significant impact on the Django community, consider becoming involved in organizing a conference.

# Opportunities

- Run for the Board and Steering Council
- Volunteer for a Working Group
- Be a conference organizer
- **Volunteer with DjangoGirls+**
  - [djangogirls.org](http://djangogirls.org)
  - [djangoproject.com/community](http://djangoproject.com/community)

## **Speaker notes**

Similarly, there are Django Girls+ events and local meet ups. These are great ways to meet people who share your interests. You can find Django Girls+ events at [djangogirls.org](http://djangogirls.org) and local meetups on the Local Django Community page.

# Opportunities

- Connecting with each other
- Join where you feel comfortable
- Social Media: Mastodon, X, LinkedIn
- Forum: [forum.djangoproject.com](https://forum.djangoproject.com)
- Discord: [chat.djangoproject.com](https://chat.djangoproject.com)

## **Speaker notes**

The next category of opportunities is around engaging with the community. Having people engage with our community. Since meeting up in person is expensive, we should make a conscious effort to make it as comfortable as possible. For some people it'll be social media. For others, maybe the forum, WhatsApp group, or something else. For others, it helps to connect our community.

# Opportunities

#FediDonutFriday



## **Speaker notes**

There's a hashtag that Seth Larson, a Python Security Developer in Residence, started on Twitter. It's #donutsofpython. It gives me permission to eat more of my favorite thing, donuts. But also because it helps me stay connected to the Python community and my life outside of work. These personal types of interactions are part of what keeps me engaged with the community.

# Opportunities to

- Write blog posts
- Post videos
- Start a podcast
- [django-news.com](http://django-news.com) - Newsletter
- [djangobook.com](http://djangobook.com) - Books about Django
- [djangotv.com](http://djangotv.com) - Video aggregated from YouTube

## **Speaker notes**

The last category is around content creation. There are several avenues you can take here. You could write a blog post about your experience creating a new podcast. If you do any of which, please post about it on social media with the Django hashtag. You could write a blog post about a particular bug you solved. The topics can be wide and varied. You could talk about the Django community, you could talk about a particular difficult bug you solved. It doesn't have to be long, or frequent or the best. The content is up to you.

You can also create a community site. For example, Django News is a newsletter for django-developers. There's also a YouTube channel called Django TV which is an aggregation of all Django video content. In the past I've harbored fascinations with what could be created, so if you see a need in the community that's not being met, I encourage you to create it.

# **Where to inve**

### **Speaker notes**

Okay, so at this point it should be clear that there's several places you could volunteer your time. There's a number of opportunities, that's reasonable. There's a lot of choices and you should want to make sure you're doing what you want to do.

**Participate where the  
most outweighs the fewest**

## **Speaker notes**

You should participate in open-source where the benefits for you most outweigh the costs outside forces or intrinsic, from within yourself. The costs are going to be easier to identify have so much of it each day.



**Know your limits**  
On Surviving Open Source

# "Know Your Limits: On Surviving Open Source" by Carlton Schilling

### **Speaker notes**

Stress is a little variable. Over time, a person can learn to tolerate a lot of stress. We need to be careful about how much stress we put on people, especially if it's something they're not used to because I don't want the next person to deal with it." This is warranted in some cases, but not all.

For more on this topic, please watch Carlton Gibson's talk, "Know Your Limits: On Survival and Stress."

**What are the benefits?**

OSS == open-source

## **Speaker notes**

Let's dive further into how to evaluate the benefits. We're going to need to do some self-re-

**Why are you parti**

## **Speaker notes**

Why are you participating in open-source? Is it so you can find a job? Is it because your expertise to be seen and acknowledged? This is going to be specific to you.

Nobody can tell you why you participate in open-source. However, understanding your why maintaining a package only because your company relies on it, and then your companies package to another person. It's easier to recognize that need for transition if you understand

# **What motivates**

### **Speaker notes**

The next question is, what motivates you? Are you the type of person who likes solving a challenge alone? Or maybe you're like me and you are motivated by helping and collaborating with others. I struggle with it.

# **What inter**

## **Speaker notes**

You should also ask, what excites/interests you? If you know that you find databases fasci

**What skills do yo**

## **Speaker notes**

Lastly, consider what skills you want to learn. You're always going to learn new things coming to know. For example, if you want to learn how to do some basic graphic design, joining the community. Or if you want to improve your debugging skills, helping people on the Forum, Discord or Stack Overflow.

**Look for alignment between  
opportunity's**

## **Speaker notes**

The reason these questions are important is that it helps you evaluate what opportunities to identify alignment between your needs and the opportunity's outcomes. The greater the you'll find that you have to summon the energy to contribute. In the worst case you could health, be selective about where you contribute.

# **What opportunities are there?**

- DSF Board and Steering Committee
- Various orgs, working groups
- Major conference roles are available

## Speaker notes

Now that you have an understanding of what you're looking for in an opportunity, we need to know which roles and teams that need help? Only some of those are available right now.

For example, the Board and the Steering Council have their members elected by the individual members such as the Security Team. Conferences tend to accept organizers already

Beyond the schedules of roles, there are requirements for some roles in the community. I will explain them while. If that's you, please run!

## **Entry level opportunities**

- Triage issues, contribute PRs, and review pull requests
- Volunteer at events and conferences
- Write blog posts about your work or interests
- Ask and answer questions on forums and Q&A sites
- Participate in conversations on social media

## **Speaker notes**

If you're someone who is newer to the community, some entry level opportunities are:

- Triage issues and/or contribute PRs for Django or popular packages
- Volunteer at the events and conferences you attend
- Write blog posts about your experiences
- Ask and answer questions on the Forum or Discord
- Participate in conversations on Social Media

Please remember, you don't have to do all these things. Though you should try to be consistent. If you write a blog post and participate in a few threads on the forum every month for a year, people will start recognizing you by your names and avatars. And people will start recognizing you.

**Over time, you'll find a  
way to connect with  
the people around you.**

## **Speaker notes**

There's another reason to do things periodically while avoiding trying to do all the things. You're going to start seeing the problems that need solving that nobody is working on. That and wait. I've seen it happen multiple times.

My time answering help questions for Django lead to proposing a debugging tutorial for a possible that the years I spent helping other debug their problems gave me the confidence

May 11,



Rachell (she/her) 5/11/2

Would you all be open to a week or two to discuss things? I'd like to see others just as enthusiastic as I am!



# Rachell setting up an initiative Space

## **Speaker notes**

Another time it happened for me was when Djangonaut Space was forming. Because I had seen Rachell Calhoun ask this question about forming a team to help people contribute to over-committing, I allowed my future self to participate in the coolest initiative I've been a part of.

 **DryORM**

```
1 from django.db import models
2
3 class Person(models.Model):
4     name = models.CharField(max_length=100)
5     data = models.JSONField(null=True)
6
7     def __str__(self):
8         return self.name
9
10    def run():
11        Person.objects.get_or_create(name="Bob", data={})
12        Person.objects.get_or_create(
13            name="Lana", data=models.Value(None, model=Person))
```

# Screenshot of dr

## **Speaker notes**

I've seen this happen for other people too. Xterm is an official helper on the Django disco ORM project that allows a person to write Django models, run some code with those models while helping people. The clarity to recognize the problem only came because they were

**The Liliars**  
**Contribute where it helps**

## **Speaker notes**

The last thing I want to mention about choosing where to contribute is what my friend Lilian does. She asks herself three questions: Is it important? Can she teach her and if it help with a longer term goal. It's such a healthy, productive and positive way to approach contributing.

Eventually you're going to hit a hard challenge. Something that's going to make you ask, 'Is it important?' If the answer is no, and it's possible only a few dozen people will benefit from it being fixed. If we're only asking "is it important?" then we shouldn't work on it.

However, if you factor in the knowledge gained, relationships built and the doors being opened, then it might be worth it.

That's why Lilian's selection method is genius. It's designed to help move herself forward while helping her learn more and that the journey is worth more than the bug being fixed. So when you're faced with a hard challenge, ask yourself those three questions.

# Evaluating opportunities

1. Don't try to do all the things
2. Do try to be consistent with
3. Engaging over time will lead to success
4. Choose opportunities that build on your strengths

## **Speaker notes**

That was a lot. Let me summarize things a bit. Here are the things to keep in mind when

1. Don't try to do all the things
2. Do try to be consistent with periodic contributions
3. Engaging over time will lead to more opportunities
4. Choose opportunities that build towards your goals

# **Why should you pa**

## **Speaker notes**

Now that you are more aware of what's going on in the community, places you can contribute.

My number one reason why you should contribute is that you'll learn from others.

**You'll learn f**

## **Speaker notes**

I help with the package, django-simple-history where I learn from the other maintainer Anil. Working with him exposes me to an expert's way of thinking, and he creates a friendly environment for me to learn and grow better myself.

An enthusiastic attitude increases

"Interest Matters: The Importance of

[pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/about](http://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/about)

## **Speaker notes**

Then there is the friendship consideration. I've noticed that when I make friends in the community, I'm more likely to read it. I approach these topics with an enthusiastic and open mindset, which helps me to ask good questions too.

So I'm part of a co-writing group with Matthias Kestenholz and Sarah Abderemane. I know them both from everywhere, not to mention she's here. This writing group is just us silently writing on a voice recorder to make time for it. But anyway, because of that writing group, when Matthias writes about something or Sarah, publishes an accessibility checklist, I'm reading it and trying to figure out how to use it.



# Velda Kiara: Celebrate

# Jeff Triplett: Look at

## **Speaker notes**

Beyond the technical growth, you will grow as a human too. My friend Velda Kiara who is has taught me and continues to teach me to take the wins as they are and to stop under DjangoCon US. He has taught me how to look at things things from a more measured and



# Rachell Calhoun:

**Photo credit: Bartek Pawlik**

## **Speaker notes**

My friend Rachell Calhoun, who I met through Djangonaut Space, helped me improve as a speaker. Specifically the action of calling people in place of calling people out. Calling people in is how you get the behavior you want.



# Natalia Bidart: Being other

## Speaker notes

My friend Natalia Bidart who I met through DjangoCon US, has helped me focus more on towards all contributions as well as recognizing and reducing language that excludes people.

So my advice to you is, if you're the type of person who wants to grow and get better, com-

# **Why should you pa**

## **Speaker notes**

Not entirely convinced yet? Okay that's fair. Let's try an oldie but a goodie.

Why should you pa

**It will help you**

## **Speaker notes**

Contributing to open source will help you in your career. That is true, but it may not be true. It's a lot of work and you don't realize how valuable it is until you're well into it.

It's the entirety of the experience that's beneficial rather than any one specific thing. It exposes you to people who can provide advice and feedback. Contributing to open-source is one of

# **Why should you pa**

## **Speaker notes**

I'm pretty sure I have you all convinced, but to be sure, I'm going to make one more pitch

**Why should you pay  
attention to your new  
neighbor?**

## **Speaker notes**

My last argument is that you should contribute because it introduces you to other people

\*transition\* Beyond the job opportunities they can provide, the lessons they can teach you gives you a sense of community. A strong sense of community is correlated with better mental health and lower stress. That's pretty dang cool.

Remember how I was telling you about my hometown and how it was an insulated experience outside of that community. The turning point for me was at DjangoCon US 2022 in San Diego. It was the first time I had traveled outside of Africa and it opened up the way for me to invest into the Django community and build deep, meaningful connections with people from all over the world.

In fact, in preparation for this talk, I was able to ask a few friends from across Africa to review my slides and give feedback. I had built a connection with people that I knew. It's a personal achievement of mine that I am proud of because the Django community strives to be open, welcoming and more diverse than most other communities in different cultures.

**Why should you pa**

**A strong sense of commun  
mental**

**[pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/about](http://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/about)**

# **What I want you to know**

- Consistency and perseverance
- Self-reflect on your goals and values
- Find alignment between your goals and values
- Engaging will reveal more opportunities
- You will learn and grow

## **Speaker notes**

Alright, let's start wrapping this up.

Remember when contributing to open source consistency and perseverance are key.

With Django, there are several opportunities available to you across the community.

When reviewing those opportunities, self-reflect on your goals and desires.

The more aligned the opportunity is with your own goals, the more engaged you will be at

Over time, you'll start seeing underlying challenges the community is facing and opportuni

As you contribute, you're going to learn from others and grow. Not only as a developer bu

You'll find people around the globe who want to see you succeed and cheer you on as yo

And if you're like me, and you've never quite fit in. You might realize that this group of people have been here the whole time.

So when you're ready, come join us.

**Asa**  
**schillingt@better**  
**@CodenameTim@**

## **Speaker notes**

Asante, muwe na wakati mwema